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be equally emphasized. The last sentence deserves to be written in letters of gold.

Again, on page 126, foot note: "It is intended that all translation from Greek in the class should be done from the teacher's reading." Every teacher who tries this for three months in a beginning class of Greek or Latin will be likely to allow an open book in the class rarely, except for explanation of difficult points or for illustration. In the same note: "The Greek exercise should be read aloud by the pupil until it can be given readily and on review should be translated back into Greek from the English." Yes, and the review should come soon after the first translation has been thoroughly finished. This is good old Roger Ascham's method by which he made Queen Bess the best Greek scholar in her realm. A trial of these methods will prove in the hands of a competent teacher a saving of time—by strengthening the memory, increasing the ease and power of translating and ensuring an early appreciation of the style of the author.

It is evidently the opinion of Professor Goodell that the beginning of comparative philology should not be undertaken by the younger students. This is perhaps the general opinion of those who have charge of advanced students. Is it not possible to present the simplest elements of this science in the first steps of Greek in a manner that will be helpful then and prepare the mind to grasp the science fully during the college course? With the present practice students leave college with less knowledge of the relations between the languages than they should have on entering. It is believed by many, that the introduction of this science in the simplest elementary way illustrated by cognate words in Latin, Greek, German, and English, would be helpful rather than confusing to the learner, and that a mental habit would early be formed which would be of great practical advantage in the saving of time in language study and in making the memory active not for the college years alone, but for all the years that men have to do with ideas and words. A little space devoted to this as occasion might serve, would not increase the bulk of the book greatly, and might be omitted at the discretion of the teacher.

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*The Beauties of Nature, and the Wonders of the World we Live in.*

By the RT. HON. SIR JOHN LUBBOCK, F.R.S., LL.D., &c.  
Macmillan & Co.: New York and London. pp. 429.

The name of Sir John Lubbock will be a sufficient guarantee to many students of nature for the character of his new book, "Beauties of Nature." Those who have read his classic experiments upon the habits of "Ants, Bees and Wasps," or the charming stories of adaptation in "Flowers and Insects," will read with especial

pleasure the chapters on animal and plant life. The charm of these chapters is that they teem with interesting facts and deductions, many of them first made known by so careful an observer and reverent a student. To such readers there may be a feeling that these chapters are only too short and that too much space is given to inanimate objects.

But this suggests the purpose of the book. It is not designed to teach natural history, nor geology, nor astronomy, nor is it to serve as a compendium of the interesting and instructive facts of natural science. It is really an argument for the recognition of beauty in nature.

Thirty-eight pages of Introduction are devoted to argument for the beauty of natural scenery, of landscape, the varying tints of the seasons and the glorious color effects at break and close of day. It is rather surprising that argument should be needed for such all but universally recognized beauty, especially among the class of people who do most of the reading of books. A Ruskin can see richer colors and more graceful lines in nature than most of us can, perhaps, at least can write more delightfully about them. It is appropriate then, if argument be needed for the appreciation of natural scenery, that it should be fortified by rich quotations from Ruskin, Jeffries, and others, which make up a large part of the introduction as well as the chapters on "Woods and Fields," "Mountains," "Rivers and Lakes," "The Sea," and "The Starry Heavens."

Before furnishing some internal evidence of the general nature of the book it may be observed that the press-work is excellent, which is refreshing, and the typographical errors are few. The text covers 429 pages, but as one reads the pages turn rapidly and there comes a feeling of relief from a task such as reading a book of 400 large pages is apt to be.

The book is more for pleasurable reading. It says interesting things in an interesting way, not very many things for its size, nor very much about anything. This fits it for recreation reading for a student of nature, but it cannot justly be said on the whole to appeal to others, except the descriptive portions.

The chapters are subdivided into paragraphs by captions indicating the subject matter. These captions are usually well chosen, but sometimes are not an index of what is to follow. For example, "Colour" forms the caption for the presentation of the subject of protective resemblance in animals. While the first part of the paragraph treats of color resemblance, the latter deals with resemblance in form. This suggests the possibility that the author did not select the captions, for it is not likely that such an inappropriate one could be chosen by him. The paragraph on "Growth and Metamorphosis," gives an utterly inadequate notion of these two important and interesting phenomena of insect life. The author cites only the two early larval stages of the stylops parasite on solitary bees and then briefly instances three

different larval forms of the Hymenoptera in the following words : "For instance, in the family of insects to which bees and wasps belong, some have grub larvæ, such as the bee and ant ; some have larvæ like caterpillars, such as the sawflies ; and there is a group of minute forms the larvæ of which live inside the eggs of other insects, and present very remarkable and abnormal forms." Anyone who was not a serious student of natural history would be totally misled in regard to the transformations of insects in general.

In discussing the vision of insects with compound eyes he speaks of the mosaic theory as the prevailing opinion. He might have cited the more recent theory, based on numerous experiments, that such insects probably see only color and movement. This would explain the difficulty the author meets in understanding "how an insect can obtain a correct impression when it looks at the world with five eyes, three of which see everything reversed, while two see things the right way up." Other paragraphs in the chapters on animal life which are treated more satisfactorily are those on "Rudimentary Organs," "Modifications," "Communities," "Ants," "Senses," "Sense of Direction," "Length of Life." Some of these topics have formed subjects of serious original study by the author. A paragraph on the importance of the smaller animals is a timely one in a popular book. The general reading public will not be disturbed by finding a place in the book here for bacteria, while students of natural history will look for them among plants.

Two very interesting paragraphs close the chapters on animal life, one on "Individuality," and another on "Immortality."

The chapter on plant life relates some interesting observations on the mutual dependence of insects and flowers, besides paragraphs on "Fruits and Seeds," "Leaves," "Aquatic Leaves," "On Hairs," "Influence of Soil," "On Seedlings," "Sleep of Plants," "Behaviour of Leaves in Rain," "Mimicry," "Insectivorous Plants," and "Movements of Plants."

The remaining chapters on physical geography and astronomy are treated much in the same way. The book, while very interesting reading, cannot be said to fill any real want of a book on any subject of natural science in a school library. It attempts to cover too many things in too small space for that. But as an embellishment for such a library it will be found to be useful.

*G. F. Atkinson.*

*The Colonial Era.* BY REV. GEORGE P. FISHER, D.D., LL.D.,  
Professor Ecclesiastical History, Yale University. Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1892.

This work is the first of a series of five volumes intended to constitute The American History Series. As its title indicates this volume covers the period from the Discovery to the Revolu-